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7 February 2005.

Signature: Melody A. Almberg (Melody Almberg)

15w/1002
Attorney Docket No. 29195-8192US
SEMITOOL REF NO. P97-0011

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: THOMAS L. RITZDORF ET AL.

APPLICATION No.: 08/940,686

FILED: 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR PLATING SYSTEM
WORKPIECE SUPPORT HAVING
WORKPIECE ENGAGING ELECTRODE
WITH PRECONDITIONED CONTACT FACE

EXAMINER: WILLIAM T. LEADER
ART UNIT: 1742
CONF. NO: 5188

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004 in this application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 17, i.e., all pending claims, under the nonstatutory double patenting doctrine.

Although the undersigned disagrees with the Examiner's position, it seems more cost-effective to obviate the rejection with a terminal disclaimer than to argue the merits of the matter. Consequently, the undersigned has included a terminal disclaimer and a statement under 37 CFR §3.73(b) signed on behalf of the assignee. The undersigned is an attorney of record pursuant to the Power of Attorney filed 10 May 2002, which the Office acknowledged 8 April 2004 in a Notice of Acceptance.

Though the Office acknowledged the 10 May 2002 Power of Attorney, the present Office Action was mailed to the counsel that originally filed the application. Please direct all further correspondence in this case to the undersigned at the correspondence address noted below.

As the enclosed terminal disclaimer overcomes the sole basis for rejection in the outstanding Office Action, the undersigned requests prompt notice of allowance. If the

Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, though, the Examiner is encouraged to call Paul T. Parker at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: 7 February 2005

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